



Kabul Police Academy graduates 1st officer class

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KABUL, Afghanistan—The Afghan National Police grew in ranks and capability recently as the German-led Kabul Police Academy graduated the first class of police officers from its comprehensive three-year officer training course.

The 210 new officers celebrated during a morning ceremony that emphasized their hard work and accomplishments and highlighted their new responsibilities now that they are lieutenants, or sarans.

As cadets at the academy, they studied 23 subjects during more than 3,400 hours of classroom training. Topics ranged from criminal investigations and social sciences to police tactics and operations.

In addition to being extremely well trained in police operations, the new sarans are in top physical condition after completing more than 120 hours of physical training during the course. They also participated in additional physical fitness activities both before and after classes.

“Every morning and every evening, except for holi-



Photos by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Victoria Meyer

Members of the Kabul Police Academy cadet honor guard lead the pass and review during the recent Afghan National Police officers' graduation ceremony.

days, the cadets were doing some type of physical conditioning,” said Col. Wasirshah, an assistant professor at the academy. “They would train in martial arts, boxing, football and basketball, as well as running and calisthenics.”

Wasirshah, who like many Afghans uses only one name, knows from experience what the new sarans will encounter during their careers with the ANP. “I have been in the service for more than 35 years—10 in the army and 25 in the police,” he said as he spoke with the graduates prior to the ceremony.

Newly commissioned 2nd Lt. Amin Ullah, one of the top graduates of the class, spoke highly of his training. “I enjoyed my time here. I found all subjects interesting, especially criminal techniques and police tactics.”

“We graduated 210 sarans. Beginning with them, every year we’ll graduate 400 to 500 new sarans,” said Jurgen Graf, a police advisor with the German Police Project Office.

According to the Bonn II Agreement of 2002, Germany has lead responsibility for the reform of the Afghan National Police and the three-year Kabul Police Academy training program.

The new officers will be assigned to the different police divisions within the ANP. In the next few weeks they will head to their new assignments as border police, traf-



Newly commissioned Afghan National Police second lieutenants prepare to receive their diplomas during the Kabul Police Academy graduation ceremony. These officers were the top graduates of the three-year course.



Photos by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Victoria Meyer

The new graduates of the German-led Kabul Police Academy's three-year officer course stand in formation during their graduation ceremony.

fic police, uniform police, highway police or the standby force, Graf said.

Ullah can't wait to get started in his new career as a police officer, something he has always aspired to. "Since I was a small child I've wanted to be a police or military officer," he said.

After he gains experience on the force, he hopes to return to Kabul to become an academy professor. "I hope to come back to the academy and instruct so I can share my knowledge with other new police officers," Ullah said.

At the ceremony, Ahmad Zia Massoud, first deputy vice president of Afghanistan, stressed the importance of the graduates' future duties. "The police uniform is a symbol of service for the people, security and stability of Afghanistan," Massoud said. "You are aware of your responsibility to your people and to your country."

Zarar Ahmad Moqbel, the deputy minister of the Interior




Col. Wasirshah, an assistant professor at the academy, speaks to the top graduates of the Kabul Police Academy's officer course before the ceremony begins.

Ministry, also spoke to the new officers about their future service to their country and its citizens.

"We are faced with challenges from those who wish to destroy our country and our security. This is the first graduation of police from the academy since the collapse of Taliban," Maqbel said. "National sovereignty will only be achieved if we have a strong police force."

The commanding general of the police academy, Maj. Gen. Shair Aqa Rohani, told the new officers how they are members of a truly national police force. "We are ready for you to serve in every part of Afghanistan."

"Your graduation today helps Afghanistan secure the long struggle against crime," Rohani said. "You will continue your duties according to the police oath and will defend independence, freedom, security and stability for Afghanistan." 



Ahmad Zia Massoud, first deputy vice president of Afghanistan, presents a new police officer with his diploma.